



Garland asks court to unseal warrant for Mar-a-Lago search



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks at the Justice Department Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, in Washington.

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is asking a federal court to unseal the warrant the FBI used to search the Mar-a-Lago estate of former President Donald Trump, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday, acknowledging extraordinary public interest in the case about classified records.

The request is striking because such documents traditionally remain sealed during a pending investigation. But the Justice Department appeared to recognize that its silence since the search had created a vacuum for bitter verbal attacks by Trump and his allies, and that the public was entitled to the FBI's side about what prompted Monday's action at the former president's home.

"The public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these

circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing," said a motion filed in federal court in Florida on Thursday.

Should the warrant be released — the request is now with the judge, and Trump can object — it could disclose unflattering information about the former president and about FBI scrutiny of his handling of sensitive government documents right as he prepares for another run for the White House. During his successful 2016 campaign, he pointed frequently to an FBI investigation into his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, over whether she mishandled classified information.

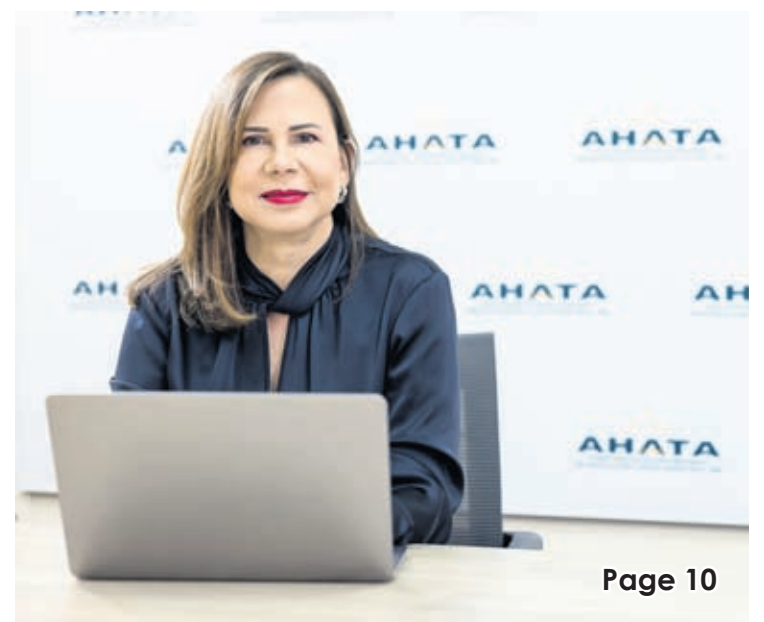
It's unclear at this point how much information would be included in the documents, if made public, or if they would encompass an FBI affidavit that would presumably lay out a detailed factual basis for the search.

Continued on Page 2

Government of Aruba will approach U.S. regarding possibility to purchase Venezuelan HFO



AHATA: Hotel occupancy and RevPAR are recovering



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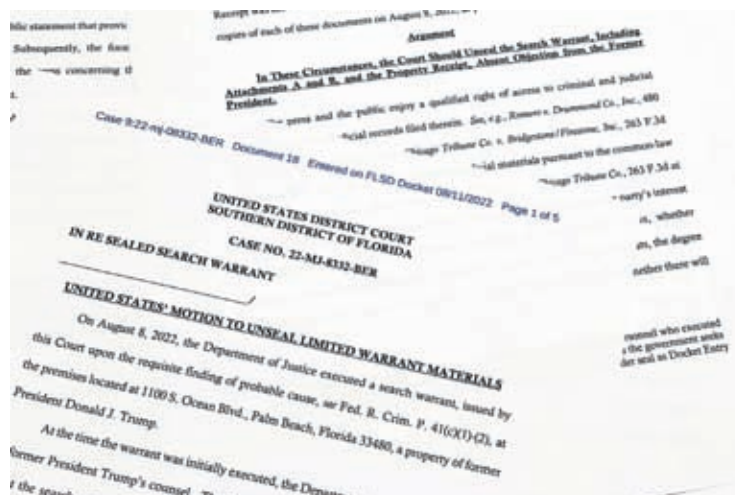
Garland asks court to unseal warrant for Mar-a-Lago search

Continued from Front

The department specifically requested the unsealing of the warrant as well as a property receipt listing the items that were seized, along with two unspecified attachments.

To obtain a search warrant, federal authorities must prove to a judge that probable cause exists to believe that a crime was committed. Garland said he personally approved the warrant, a decision he said the department did not take lightly given that standard practice where possible is to select less intrusive tactics than a search of one's home. Neither Trump nor the FBI has said anything about what documents the FBI might have recovered, or what precisely agents were looking for. But the former president complained anew Thursday about the search.

Trump, who for years has lambasted the FBI and sought to sow distrust among his supporters in its decisions, said the warrant was served and the search conducted despite his cooperation with the Justice Department over the search. In a post to his Truth Social platform, Trump said that his "attorneys and representatives were co-



The motion by the Justice Department to the U.S. District Court South District of Florida to unseal the search warrant the FBI received before searching the Florida estate of former President Donald Trump, is photographed Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

operating fully" prior to the search, and that government officials "could have had whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted, if we had it."

The Justice Department has until Friday afternoon to alert the judge about whether Trump will object to the release.

FBI and Justice Department policy cautions against discussing ongoing investigations, both to protect the integrity of probes and to avoid unfairly maligning someone who is being scrutinized but winds up ultimately not being charged. That's especially true in the case of search warrants, where supporting court papers are routinely kept

secret as the investigation proceeds. In this case, though, Garland cited the fact that Trump himself had provided the first public confirmation of the FBI search, "as is his right." The Justice Department, in its new filing, also said that disclosing information about it now would not harm the court's functions.

Even so, Garland, in a hastily scheduled public statement delivered from the Justice Department podium, appeared to acknowledge the unusual nature of the department's request as he declined to take questions or provide any substantive details about the FBI's investigation.

"Much of our work is by ne-

cessity conducted out of the public eye. We do that to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigations," he said. "Federal law, longstanding department rules and our ethical obligations prevent me from providing further details as to the basis of the search at this time."

The Justice Department under Garland has been leery of public statements about politically charged investigations, or of confirming to what extent it might be investigating Trump as part of a broader probe into the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. The department has tried to avoid being seen as injecting itself into presidential politics, as happened in 2016 when then-FBI Director James Comey made an unusual public statement announcing that the FBI would not be recommending criminal charges against Clinton regarding her handling of email — and when he spoke up again just over a week before the election to notify Congress that the probe was being effectively reopened because of the discovery of new emails.

The Mar-a-Lago search warrant was served Mon-

day was part of an ongoing Justice Department investigation into the discovery of classified White House records recovered from Trump's home in Palm Beach, Florida, earlier this year. The National Archives had asked the department to investigate after saying that classified records were found in 15 boxes of records that it retrieved from the estate. Multiple federal laws govern the handling of classified information.

The attorney general condemned verbal attacks on FBI and Justice Department personnel over the search. Some Republican allies of Trump have called for the FBI to be defunded, and large numbers of Trump supporters have called for the warrant to be released because they believe it will show that Trump was wrongly targeted.

"I will not stand by silently when their integrity is unfairly attacked," Garland said of federal law enforcement agents, calling them "dedicated, patriotic public servants."

Earlier Thursday, an armed man wearing body armor tried to breach a security screening area at an FBI field office in Ohio, then fled and was later killed after a standoff with law enforcement. □

Clinton initiative's NYC return includes Andres, Queen Rania

By **GLENN GAMBOA**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — World Central Kitchen founder Jose Andres, Jordan's Queen Rania, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink and "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda will help relaunch the Clinton Global Initiative in September, when the gathering of international dignitaries returns after six years.

The two-day meeting Sept. 19 and 20 in New York is built around a theme of "The Business of How," looking to create partnerships between political, business and philanthropic

leaders.

"We called the CGI community back together this year because we face an urgent and historic moment," former President Bill Clinton said in a statement Thursday. "The global community is confronting several existential challenges, including climate change, new threats to our health, worsening economic inequalities, and a global refugee crisis."

The Clinton Foundation's annual gathering was called off in 2016 during former Sen. Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, when questions were

raised about the appearance of potential conflicts of interests if CGI donors then had business before her administration.

Organizers say this year's gathering will combine a mix of proven solutions to issues that can be shared around the world and fostering new connections that can create new solutions.

That means luminaries — including Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, actor and water access activist Matt Damon, as well as several philanthropic leaders including Emerson Collective founder



Former President Bill Clinton smiles as he plays a recording of Aretha Franklin on his phone during the funeral service for Franklin at Greater Grace Temple, Friday, Aug. 31, 2018, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Laurene Powell Jobs, Melon Foundation CEO Elizabeth Alexander and Case Foundation co-founder Steve Case — can discuss both past successes and current needs.

Tom Watson, founder of social sector consulting firm CauseWired, said the Clinton Global Initiative's model for attacking problems from several vantage points has been missed. □

FTC looking at rules to corral tech firms' data collection

By **MARCY GORDON**

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Whether it's the fitness tracker on your wrist, the "smart" home appliances in your house or the latest kids' fad going viral in online videos, they all produce a trove of personal data for big tech companies.

How that data is being used and protected has led to growing public concern and officials' outrage. And now federal regulators are looking at drafting rules to crack down on what they call harmful commercial surveillance and lax data security.

The Federal Trade Commission announced the initiative Thursday, seeking public comment on the effects of companies' data collection and the potential benefit of new rules to protect consumers' privacy.

The FTC defines commercial surveillance as "the business of collecting, analyzing and profiting from information about people." In Congress, bipartisan condemnation of the data power of Meta — the parent of Facebook and Instagram — Google and other tech giants that have earned riches by aggregating consumer information used by online advertisers, has brought national data privacy legislation to



Lina Khan, then-nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), speaks during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, April 21, 2021.

its closest point ever to passage.

Around the country, parents' concern has deepened over the impact of social media on children. Frances Haugen, a former Facebook data scientist, stunned Congress and the public last fall when she exposed internal company research showing apparent serious harm to some teens from Instagram. Those revelations were followed by senators grilling executives from YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat about what they're doing to ensure young users' safety in the

wake of suicides and other harms to teens attributed by their parents to their usage of the platforms.

The Democratic members of the FTC said Thursday it's imperative for Congress to pass a new law, but that the agency was taking action in the meantime by issuing the notice of proposed rules.

"Mass surveillance has heightened the risks and stakes of data breaches, deception, manipulation and other abuses," the FTC said.

Agency officials noted that the FTC has brought hun-

dreds of enforcement actions against companies over the last two decades for violations of privacy and data security. They included cases involving the sharing of health-related data with third parties, the collection and sharing of sensitive TV viewing data for targeted advertising, and failure to put in adequate security measures to protect sensitive data such as Social Security numbers. However, the officials said, the FTC's ability to deter illegal conduct is limited because it generally lacks authority to seek financial

penalties for initial violations of law. That could change if the comprehensive privacy legislation were to clear Congress.

"Firms now collect personal data on individuals at a massive scale and in a stunning array of contexts," FTC Chair Lina Khan said in an online news conference. "Our goal today is to begin building a robust public record to inform whether the FTC should issue rules to address commercial surveillance and data security practices, and what those rules should potentially look like."

"We are very, very eager to hear from the public," Khan said.

Topics of interest could include how companies use algorithms and automated systems to analyze the information they collect, and the potential effects of various data practices.

Khan, who was an outspoken critic of Big Tech as a law professor, was appointed by President Joe Biden last year to head the FTC — an independent agency that polices competition and consumer protection as well as digital privacy.

The rulemaking proposal was adopted in a 3-2 vote by the five FTC commissioners. Khan and the other two Democrats voted to issue it, while the two Republicans opposed it. □

Associated Press

Breyer, Gorsuch join to promote education about Constitution

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recently retired Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer has become the honorary co-chairman of a non-partisan group devoted to education about the Constitution, joining Justice Neil Gorsuch at a time of intense political polarization and rising skepticism about the court's independence. The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia said Thursday that Breyer and Gorsuch, who has served since 2019, will be spokes-

men for civics education and civility in politics.

The justices' decision to work together "is especially meaningful in this polarized time," Jeffrey Rosen, the center's president and CEO, said.

The 84-year-old Breyer retired at the end of June after nearly 28 years as a justice. His seat was taken by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the high court's first Black woman.

Breyer has been a constant voice for seeing the court as something other than "politicians in robes" even

as the court has issued a string of conservative-driven decisions topped by eliminating the constitutional right to abortion and overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

In recent months, the court with six Republican-appointed conservatives and three liberals appointed by Democrats also has expanded gun rights, weakened the separation of church and state and constrained the Biden administration's efforts to combat climate change and the coronavirus pandemic.

Gorsuch was in the major-



Then-Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer speaks during an event at the Library of Congress for the 2022 Supreme Court Fellows Program hosted by the Law Library of Congress, Feb. 17, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

ity of all those cases and Breyer, in dissent.

Challenges to affirmative action in education and key election-related cases

highlight the term that begins in October and seem likely to produce more sharp splits along ideological lines. □

Cause sought for Indiana house explosion that killed 3

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Authorities worked Thursday to determine the cause of a house explosion in a southern Indiana neighborhood that killed three people and left another person hospitalized.

The explosion Wednesday afternoon in Evansville damaged 39 homes. Crews on Thursday completed a secondary search of buildings that were left unstable by the explosion and no more victims were found, Fire Chief Mike Connelly told reporters.

"It's a huge relief, for everybody," the chief said of the results of the secondary search.

Eleven of the damaged homes were uninhabitable and will have to be demolished, Connelly said, and finding a cause is expected to be a "very tedious process — and lengthy."

The Vanderburgh County Coroner's Office identified the victims as a married couple, 43-year-old Charles Hite and 37-year-old Martina Hite, and 29-year-old neighbor Jessica Teague. The cause and manner of their deaths have not yet



Emergency personnel search the debris, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, in Evansville, Ind., as authorities work to determine the cause of a house explosion that killed three people and left another person hospitalized. The explosion the day before damaged 39 homes.

Associated Press

been determined, the office said.

Suzanne Dabkowski, a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, spokeswoman, said the agency can't speak to any possible causes of the explosion. Dabkowski said the ATF has explosive specialists and firearms investi-

gators on-site in Evansville who were helping with the investigation.

The ATF's involvement does not mean there is an intentional or illegal act behind them, she added. Typically, the agency gets involved in local cases when its help is requested or if there is some federal connection,

Dabkowski said.

"When we come to these types of events we've either been asked in by the local fire officials or the state fire marshal for our agents who have had additional training," she said. "We can be extra hands to help them. Most places aren't used to seeing a scene of this size."

Evansville authorities have declined to speculate whether natural gas or another issue is responsible for the explosion.

Evansville is along Indiana's border with Kentucky. The blast left debris that included wooden boards, window glass and insulation strewn over a 100-foot (30-meter) radius.

CenterPoint Energy, the local gas utility, was last called to the home in January 2018, according to Connelly.

The utility said it was working with fire officials and other agencies as the investigation continues.

It was the second house explosion in the area in just over five years. A June 27, 2017, explosion killed two people and injured three others.

Wednesday's explosion also brought to mind a massive blast in 2012 that destroyed or damaged more than 80 homes in Indianapolis and killed two people. A man was convicted of tampering with a natural gas line at his then-girlfriend's home in an attempt to commit insurance fraud. □

Armed man tries to breach FBI office, is injured in standoff

CINCINNATI (AP) — An armed man decked out in body armor tried to breach a security screening area at an FBI field office Thursday, then fled and was injured in an exchange of gunfire in an hourslong standoff with law enforcement that persisted into late afternoon, authorities said.

The confrontation that began at the FBI's Cincinnati office came as officials warned of an increase in threats against federal agents in the days following a search of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Federal officials said the man "attempted to breach" the visitor's screening area at the FBI office and fled when agents confronted him. After fleeing onto Interstate 71, he was spotted by a trooper and fired shots as the trooper

pursued him, said Lt. Nathan Dennis, a Ohio State Highway Patrol spokesperson.

The suspect left the interstate north of Cincinnati and abandoned his car on rural roads, where he exchanged gunfire with police. The man has "un-

known injuries," but no one else was hurt, the patrol said.

The standoff remained in progress as of midafternoon Thursday near roads bordered by woods and farm fields just off I-71 and about 45 miles (72 kilometers) northeast of Cincinnati.



The entrance to the FBI headquarters in Cincinnati is shown Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Associated Press

State highway workers blocked off roads leading to the scene as a helicopter flew over the area.

Officials in Ohio have locked down a mile radius near the interstate and urged residents and business owners to lock doors and stay inside. The interstate has been reopened. There have been growing threats in recent days against FBI agents and offices across the country since federal agents executed a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago.

On Gab, a social media site popular with white supremacists and antisemites, users have warned they are preparing for an armed revolution.

Federal officials have also been tracking an array of other concerning chatter on Gab and other platforms threatening violence

against federal agents. FBI Director Christopher Wray denounced the threats as he visited another FBI office in Nebraska on Wednesday.

"Violence against law enforcement is not the answer, no matter who you're upset with," Wray said Wednesday in Omaha.

The FBI on Wednesday also warned its agents to avoid protesters and ensure their security key cards are "not visible outside FBI space," citing an increase in social media threats to bureau personnel and facilities. It also warned agents to be aware of their surroundings and potential protesters.

The warning did not specifically mention this week's search of Mar-a-Lago but attributed the online threats to "recent media reporting on FBI investigative activity." □

Western nations pledge more military support for Ukraine

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Western countries agreed Thursday to continue long-term funding to help Ukraine's military keep fighting nearly 5½ months after Russia invaded its neighbor, saying 1.5 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) has been pledged so far and more is coming.

The money is for enhancing armaments production, including artillery and ammunition; developing and strengthening the training of Ukrainian soldiers and assisting Ukraine's efforts to demine areas.

"All the countries that came to Copenhagen came with the intention of supporting Ukraine," Danish Defense Minister Morten Bødskov said at the end of the one-day meeting of 26 nations and the European Union.

British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said the meeting proved that Russian President Vladimir "Putin's ambition (of the West losing its willingness to support Ukraine) has failed."

"We are still determined," Wallace said.

The 1.5 billion euros includ-



Danish Defense Minister Morten Boedskov, center, Ukraine's Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov, third from down right, Great Britain's Defense Minister Ben Wallace, third from down left, and the rest of participants pose for a family photo during the donor conference for Ukraine at Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022.

ed donations by the U.K., Denmark and Norway but "it will grow," Bødskov said, adding "some of the countries need to go back home and get the support of their parliaments."

Bødskov said that "money alone will not do the trick, as you say, we need increased productions."

He thanked Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Repub-

lic for signaling a "willingness to expand production of artillery systems, ammunitions and other equipment."

At the conference, Norway said it would help train Ukrainian troops in Britain. Sweden and Finland earlier said they would do the same.

Iceland will assist demining efforts in Ukraine "by train-

ing trainers," its foreign minister said.

In a live feed, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Western nations to provide more money, saying "the sooner we stop Russia, the sooner we can feel safe."

"We need armaments, munitions for our defense," he said. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov,

who attended the conference, declined to give details on what weapons his country will get.

The conference, co-hosted by Denmark, Britain and Ukraine, followed an April meeting at a U.S. air base in Germany that established the U.S.-led Ukraine Defense Contact Group, which coordinates international military support for Ukraine.

Britain on Thursday announced that it will send more multiple launch rocket systems and guided missiles to Ukraine to help it resist Russia's invasion.

The new weapons, whose number wasn't specified, come on top of several rocket-launch systems it gave Ukraine earlier this year.

Ukrainian troops have been trained in Britain to use them. "Our continued support sends a very clear message, Britain and the international community remain opposed to this illegal war and will stand shoulder-to-shoulder, providing defensive military aid to Ukraine to help them defend against Putin's invasion," Wallace, the defense chief, said. □

Associated Press

Sri Lankan ex-president who fled homeland arrives in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP) — Former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who last month fled anti-government protests in his country, arrived in Thailand on Thursday night on a flight from Singapore, where he had been staying since mid-July.

Thai television stations showed Rajapaksa and a woman believed to be his wife outside the VIP hall at Bangkok's Don Mueang airport being led to a limousine, which then drove off to an undisclosed destination.

Officials in Thailand on Wednesday said they had been asked by the Sri Lankan government to allow him entry, and that he would be permitted to stay temporarily.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth

Chan-ocha said he was aware of Rajapaksa's intended visit and that it was allowed for humanitarian reasons because the former president was seeking asylum in a third country. He did not elaborate but said Rajapaksa would not engage in political activity while in Thailand.

Rajapaksa has made no public comments about his travel plans. After fleeing Sri Lanka last month, he first went to neighboring Maldives in a Sri Lankan military plane and then to Singapore, where his visa expired Thursday. He submitted his resignation only after he left Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankans have staged massive street protests for months demanding democratic reforms and solutions to the country's economic

collapse.

Protesters who had occupied official offices and residences in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, blame mismanagement and corruption by the Rajapaksa family for the economic crisis that has led to serious shortages of essentials such as medicines, food and fuel. The island nation is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout program.

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tanee Sangrat said Wednesday that Rajapaksa's "stay is temporary in nature with the aim of onward travel."

No political asylum has been sought." He said that because the former president held a diplomatic passport, he would be allowed to stay for 90 days



Former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, center, walks to a waiting vehicle outside the Don Mueang airport in Bangkok, Thailand Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

without a visa.

In addition to being criticized for mismanaging his country's economy, Rajapaksa has been accused by human rights groups

of involvement with war crimes when he was defense secretary during Sri Lanka's civil war, which ended in 2009. □

Hostage standoff at Beirut bank ends with gunman's arrest

By **KAREEM CHEHAYEB and FAY ABUELGASIM**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A gunman demanding a Beirut bank let him withdraw his trapped savings to pay his father's medical bills took up to 10 people hostage in a seven-hour standoff Thursday before surrendering in exchange for what a family lawyer said was \$35,000 of his money.

Bassam al-Sheikh Hussein, a 42-year-old food-delivery driver, was promptly arrested and taken away by police as he walked out of the bank.

No one was injured.

Hussein's wife, Mariam Chehadi, who was standing outside, told reporters that her husband "did what he had to do."

The hostage drama in the city's bustling Hamra district was the latest painful episode in Lebanon's economic free-fall, now in its third year.

The country's cash-strapped banks since 2019 have slapped strict limits on withdrawals of foreign currency assets, tying up the savings of millions of people.

Dozens of protesters gathered outside during the standoff, chanting slogans



An armed man Bassam al-Sheikh Hussein, 42, right, speaks with one of his hostages inside a bank, in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022.

against the Lebanese government and banks and hoping that the gunman would get his money. Some bystanders hailed him as a hero.

Authorities said Hussein entered the bank with a shotgun and a canister of gasoline, fired three warning shots and locked himself in with his hostages, threatening to set himself on fire unless he was allowed to take out his money.

Hussein had \$210,000

trapped in Federal Bank and had been struggling to withdraw his money to pay his father's medical bills and other expenses, according to the family and others involved in the negotiations.

"My brother is not a scoundrel. He is a decent man. He takes what he has from his own pocket to give to others," Hussein's brother Atef, standing outside the bank, said during the standoff.

After hours of negotiations, Hussein accepted an offer for part of his savings, and the bank handed over \$35,000 to his brother, according to Dina Abou Zour, a lawyer and activist representing the Hussein family. Federal Bank attorney Roy Madkour refused to discuss the terms of the negotiations and added: "The matter now rests with the judiciary, and they will decide."

Lebanese soldiers, officers

from the country's Internal Security Forces and intelligence agents converged on the area during the standoff. Seven or eight bank employees were taken hostage along with two customers, George al-Haj, head of the Bank Employees Syndicate, told local media.

Lebanon is suffering from the worst economic crisis in its modern history. Three-quarters of the population has plunged into poverty, and the Lebanese pound has declined in value by more than 90% against the U.S. dollar.

"What led us to this situation is the state's failure to resolve this economic crisis and the banks' and Central Bank's actions, where people can only retrieve some of their own money as if it's a weekly allowance," said Abou Zour, who is with the legal advocacy group the Depositors' Union and was among the protesters.

"And this has led to people taking matters into their own hands."

In January, a coffee shop owner withdrew \$50,000 trapped in a bank in Lebanon after taking employees hostage and threatening to kill them. □

Officials: Floods in Yemen kill at least 38 people in 2 days



A view shows a rains-collapsed UNESCO-listed building in the old city of Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday, Aug 10, 2022.

Associated Press

By **AHMED AL-HAJ**
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Torrential rains across southwestern Yemen and the country's capital of Sanaa have triggered flashfloods and collapsed homes, kill-

ing at least 38 people over the past two days, officials said Thursday.

Scores of homes in Sanaa and the provinces of Dhamar and Ibb have completely collapsed or have been significantly

damaged, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The areas are controlled by Yemen's Houthi rebels, who are at war with forces loyal to the country's internationally recognized government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

Yemen's annual rainy season usually starts in May and lasts until August but this year, the Arab world's most impoverished country has seen heavier-than-usual rains accompanied by thunderstorms.

Meanwhile, UNESCO on Thursday voiced concern over the impact of the rainfall on the the Old City of Sanaa, a World Heritage site, where rebels said the

previous day that 10 of the city's historic houses have fully collapsed and about 80 have been damaged by the rains.

The architecture in the Old City is unique, with red brick facades adorned with white gypsum molding in ornate patterns, drawings comparisons to gingerbread houses a style that has come to symbolize Yemen's capital. Many of the houses are still private homes and some are more than 500 years old.

In an email sent to The Associated Press, the U.N. agency said it was monitoring closely the situation in Sanaa, as well as in the town of Zabid, a former capital of Yemen, and the old walled city of Shibam. Along with the European

Union, the U.N. agency has restored more than 200 historic buildings in the heart of Sanaa over the past four years but more remains to be done, it said.

In 2020, floods set off by heavy rains similarly damaged many historical houses in Sanaa's Old City and undermined conservation efforts.

The preservation efforts have also been undermined in recent years by the ongoing civil war, UNESCO added.

"The magnitude of the needs on the ground requires further prioritization of interventions in inhabited historic houses of outstanding architectural value, which are facing substantial damages," UNESCO said. □

Government of Aruba will approach U.S. regarding possibility to purchase Venezuelan HFO

ORANJESTAD – Recently, Aruba's minister of Energy, Integration and Labor, Glenbert Croes held a meeting with commercial guilds. During declarations after the meeting, shared on his Facebook page, the minister commented about developments in the cost of water and electricity on the island.

Minister Croes began by thanking the Chamber of Commerce, ATIA, AHATA and the United Merchants Aruba (CUA) for their initiative to dialogue. He also thanked (water company) WEB, (electricity company) Elmar, and Utilities, 'for being, businesses of the government, the people and the state, open to provide all information'.

Croes indicated that the fact that the price for water and electricity had to be increased is 'difficult'; however, he indicated that seeing developments



in this market, the increase is temporary. "We predict that the price for water and electricity will go back down, obviously giving space to WEB and Elmar to recover a bit from the hit that they took by absorb-

ing the increase [in oil prices] during seven months." Croes said he understands that these states companies have reached the limit of what they can absorb, that a balance needs to be reached, because the

people and economy of Aruba are the ones paying.

"During the six months of evaluation on the future structure of payments, together with a better price for oil, we could reduce the

price for our community", Croes said.

Minister Croes also announced that he will be in touch with the United States regarding the possibility to purchase Heavy Fuel Oil from Venezuela. "I also gave them the news that soon I will be approaching the U.S. government, to ask them, OFAC, the US Department of Energy, for approval to purchase HFO for WEB from our neighbors, specifically, Venezuela. Because at this moment we are paying for more expensive HFO, while other islands in the Caribbean are purchasing HFO for example from Venezuela, a lot cheaper."

He said that the discount will be translated to the people, to the community, and this is an effort that the government is doing. "It is in the general interest", Croes explained. □

Wit Gele Kruis:

"More young persons are suffering of chronic illness because of unhealthy lifestyle"

ORANJESTAD – The director of Wit Gele Kruis, Gino Goeloe commented that the age at which young persons nowadays begin suffering from chronic illness is becoming younger and younger. This is because of their unhealthy lifestyles, according to Mr. Goeloe, who emphasizes that it's time for Aruba to come with a prevention plan.

The situation is so alarming that we are seeing young adults, for example 20 years old, and already they suffer

high blood pressure or high sugar levels. "This goes with your lifestyle", according to Goeloe. When he analyzes the lifestyle of many of these young persons, you see that they eat too much fast food and do not cook at home. They consume a lot of street foods, which consist of a lot of fat and sugar, a lot of salt as well, and all this is the unhealthiest combination that exists. "Our people are overweight, obese, and we are at a point that people need to start losing weight

because if we continue gaining weight, you will see more people becoming diabetic. A lot of people don't think that weight goes together with blood sugar", says Goeloe. When a person is diabetic, their arteries close, the person confronts different kinds of illness, their eyesight is damaged, their kidneys are damaged, all that is a consequence of being overweight and obese.

'Prevention is solution'

Wit Gele Kruis believes that the focus needs to be on prevention, to create awareness for healthier eating and to for example, put more vegetables in food, eat more fruit, drink 7 glasses of water per day, and other similar changes. "It's also important to have more balanced food,



where possible, more white meat like chicken and fish. Also exercise and physical activity is very important. The aspect of sleep is essential, seven to eight hours per night is what's enough, because the body needs rest. To sleep four or five hours is not enough", Goeloe commented.

As we are currently in the hottest months, it is essential to drink a lot of water and to avoid going in the sun, do physical activity in the early morning or late

afternoon, when the sun is not too strong. "Your body is made to move, half an hour to 45 minutes a day, we need to move."

Wit Gele Kruis is sounding the alarm because if we carry on the way we're going, our health insurance AZV will become unaffordable, and this can be solved through prevention.

Wit Gele Kruis is an association working in the field of health care for the community of Aruba. □






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Some of Peru's Best Flavors are Firing up Palm Beach, Thanks to New Pop-Up Restaurant Blu Bar



PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar

snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.

As for libations, the beverage team built an equal innovative menu with a detailed selection of stunning wines and signature cocktails to pair with each dish.

The next hot spot in Palm Beach

The pop-up is the only spot for Peruvian



dining in Palm Beach and offers both indoor dining with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, and outdoor seating with a picturesque view of the resort's luxurious pool and lush gardens. The upscale atmosphere, rich in original architectural details absolute perfect location for dining with loved ones, clients, and business associates. At night, the restaurant's chic bar is a lively place to gather with friends for cocktails and cozy vibes.

One thing must be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real attention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new, and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Radisson Blu Aruba invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a Peruvian culinary experience they will never forget. Located in the heart of Radisson Blu Aruba, Blu Bar is open daily from 5PM to 11PM.

Unwind with local prices and a singing angel

Blu Bar offers a nice selection of wines and each Wednesday you will only pay in Florins. The Dollar to Florin deals – 44% discount – on wine bottles start from 5PM every Wednesday. Now it gets even better because from 7PM you can enjoy the amazing voice of local singer Amy Sorinio. The all-round performer has a unique voice and a great energy. She easily connects with her public and enchants you with jazz, easy listening, pop, soul, Latin... name a style and she can do it. Her passion led her travelling all around the world and you will feel her experience and genuine love for music.

Reservations are not required, and walk-ins are welcome. Go and find out why Blu Bar is the next hotspot for a bite, a drink or more. □

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Six students will receive scholarship and 207
other students will receive school articles****Oranjestad – Divi Impact is glad and proud to grant to 6 members a scholarship so that they can continue with their study.**

3 of the students will continue with their tuition at Colegio Arubano, two of the tuition will go for Medical School in Costa Rica and one for master in Curacao. The total amount for this scholarship amounts to Afl. 32,781.

Divi Impact is a foundation that considers education really important for our island and therefore is doing its maximum effort in this area.

This year a total of 207 children of our members received their certificate to buy their school uniform and other school articles. The total cost for this project was Afl. 29,175.

Last Friday in the Alhambra Ballroom the directive of the foundation presented to the members a financial result of the entire donation they received in 2021.

The foundation is really satisfied with the contribution of all the Divi employees and from Divi Resort. This way they can continue with their contribution to the local community. □

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AHATA: Hotel occupancy and RevPAR are recovering

July 2022 vs 2019

AHATA Hotel Performance

July	2022	2019	% change
Rooms	5,236	4,896	6.9%
ARN	160,801	151,295	6.3%
ORN	132,163	133,988	-1.4%
OCC	82.2%	88.6%	-7.2%
ADR	\$297.16	\$247.53	20.1%
RevPAR	\$244.24	\$219.22	11.4%

Oranjestad - The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has published the latest hotel performance data reporting that in July 2022 Aruba hotels continued to recover strongly and experienced an 82% average occupancy rate. However, the average of the first 7 months still stayed below 2019 levels.

July 2022:

Occupancy: The occupancy rate was 82%, which is a recovery of 93% compared to 2019 occupancy rate.

ADR: In comparison to 2019, the average daily rate (for occupied rooms) increased by 20% to

\$297.16.

RevPAR: The revenue per available room was \$244.24, which is a 11% increase over 2019.

YEAR-TO-DATE 2022:

Occupancy: The average occupancy for the first seven months of 2022 was 73%, which is 16% less than in 2019.

ADR: The average daily rate (for occupied rooms) increased by 7% to \$313.45.

RevPAR: The revenue per available room was \$227.96, a 10% decrease from 2019.

7-Month Average 2022 vs 2019

AHATA Hotel Performance

July YTD	2022	2019	% change
ARN	1,096,854	1,034,478	6.0%
ORN	797,694	892,460	-10.6%
OCC	72.7%	86.3%	-15.7%
ADR	\$313.45	\$292.52	7.2%
RevPAR	\$227.96	\$252.36	-9.7%

Timeshare:

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced a 87% occupancy rate in July.

AHATA member hotels:

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Rehoboth Peaceland Boutique Hotel, Renais-

sance Wind Creek Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

AHATA member timeshares:

Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club, The Mill Resort.

AHATA member vacation rentals:

Aramis Real Estate, Aruba's Life Vacation Residences, Aruba Happy Rental, Casiola Aruba, Cobalt Blue Fusion (Blue, Azure), Ford Property Management, Turibana Plaza, Santa Lucia Landhuis. □

Can I have a ..., please?

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try apastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball.

A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together.

What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □



Hand4Addicts:

“Aruba’s social problem is bigger than what they can handle”

The problem of homeless addicts on the streets of Aruba is one that sadly keeps growing every year, and until now, there is no concrete solution for this. Hand4Addicts is a foundation focused on providing help, beyond food, for this group. Founder and president of this foundation, Nicole de Cuba, explains where the idea came from to start this foundation, and what kind of work they do.

De Cuba explains that the idea started when she was volunteering with the Red Cross Aruba, and they had a budget to give homeless addicts something to eat every week; but then that budget was slashed.

She started providing the help on her own, with loaves of bread, juice, etc. With other people's initiative at the time, people who no longer live on Aruba, it was decided to have a BBQ, which ended up becoming a big event and right there people started making donations of what was needed at that moment, like clothing, food and other essential items.

After this big event, De Cuba together with her team from that time decided to start selling cakes to gather funds to officially set up the foundation.

Every month, once a month – mostly the last week of the month since the person has not received their social welfare yet – Hand4Addicts go to the area behind Rancho, behind the parkinglot of Mango by the main street, and provide help for the addicts. They come with a ‘bath’, which they received from a sponsor, and they received other materials from other sponsors while the Fire Department helps with water. The foundation provides clothes as well, and food to take away.

“We are there from morning until noon, or from noon until evening, depending on the situation. Practically they receive a shave and haircut, they eat, they have a bath. They come to chat



and they know us for a long time already. I've been doing this for around seven or eight years already”, De Cuba told us.

De Cuba added that in december, because she doesn't eat meat, she used to prepare ham for the addicts and sit and talk with them. She explains that the holidays are a very emotional time for the addicts because they are on the streets and have no family, they don't have anyone.

“We go to them, and they gained the confidence and they respect us, they defend us completely. And at the end of the day, when they're done eating, they chat and tell us the good and the bad that they have done”, she said.

Regarding help from official agencies in charge of social welfare, De Cuba said that she finds it regrettable that on Aruba there is a system that is not working 100% to give support to this group. She commented that a lot of the homeless addicts have had problems since they were young, grew up in orphanages of Casa Cuba or Imeldahof; or they have problematic parents where they saw drugs from an early age and were victims of abuse. Most of them come with a history that causes them pain, and using drugs is the only way which they can find an escape.

De Cuba highlights that she's met with the Governor, who back then called on her. She's met with various ministers of the current government, the old government, many times; and she says the plans that they have put forward, she sees them as clouds: plans which come, but are never realized.

She mentioned Centro Colorado, FMAA – where she herself did an internship a long time ago. But she saw the situation and at the time the place was in a very poor condition, had no structure, and a lot of the addicts said that they rather be on the streets than at the center. De Cuba emphasizes that she doesn't know what the place is like currently, but from what she knows, a lot of people who come in said that they are allowed only one mistake, then they're out and back on the streets.

In positive cases where the addict managed to beat his addiction, De Cuba said that this is usu-

ally specifically because of the initiative of the addict's family. She said there isn't an agency that medically takes care of them, a lot of them don't carry a health insurance card or ID or anything. Their medical condition is poor where many of them have STDs, infections, cuts on their hands, they get into fights, etc., but often – unless they themselves walk from the city centre to the hospital in the northern area of the islands to receive help and then walk back to the city centre – they just remain on the streets without receiving medical help.

De Cuba says that she has spoken to the minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Rocco Tjon about a case involving a young man on the streets, who they are trying to help because he is underage and his father is also an addict. She explains that she speaks to the minister regarding specific cases that are really difficult, but she emphasizes that there isn't a good team or source of care for this problem. There are agencies and foundations that help, but it's not always the same. “For years already this is a group that is seriously neglected and even though I understand that they are annoying – they break in, they steal, they are rude to people – I understand that is annoying for us non-addicts. But on the other side, I also understand their addiction”, she added.

De Cuba tells the story of a case where an addict managed to beat his addiction and received the help he needed to stand back on his feet. This person managed to get a job, but when his colleagues recognized him as a former homeless addict, a ‘choller’, he became a victim of bullying to the point where he fell back into drugs. “Aruba's social problem is a lot bigger than what they can handle.”

De Cuba commented that before she was a volunteer with the Red Cross, she used to pass judgement and she highlights that this is the mentality with which that a lot of people were brought up. But when she found out the other side of the story and actually talked to the addicts – even though they lie here and there – she understood the root of the problem. “What I always say is to just take the chance before you judge one of these people, instead of scolding them, yelling at them, push them away from you, just treat them as a person, and you will see a completely different behavior, who they really are”, she finalized. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Irritated states
 - 1 Hands over
 - 40 Cheering loudly
 - 6 Is ominous
 - 42 Dance's de Mille
 - 43 Nary a soul
 - 44 Squalid
 - 45 Tenth president
- DOWN**
- 1 Patrol boat
 - 2 Infuriate
 - 3 Failed at an early stage
 - 4 Greek vowel
 - 5 Home-steader
 - 6 Plains grazers
 - 7 Dedicated poem
 - 8 Deep-rooted
 - 9 Corrida critter
 - 10 Catchphrase
 - 17 Frets
 - 23 Overly
 - 24 Co. abbr.
 - 26 Charm
 - 27 Latin dances
 - 28 Grove fruit
 - 30 Flam-mable gas
 - 31 Sports official
 - 33 Fresh
 - 39 TV's
 - Danson
 - 41 Singer
 - Orbison

H	O	S	T	S	F	L	O	A	T
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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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13					14				
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35			36				37		
38			39		40	41			
42					43				
44					45				

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

WTCWZT XIT FC SYJJYVRZO.

QYBT DT XL TZWAXLO XLK

SXK — DXTH FAXLS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: INTO THE MOUNTAINS I GO TO LOSE MY MIND AND FIND MY SOUL. — JOHN MUIR

Gas prices dip just below \$4 for the first time in 5 months

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Gasoline prices have dipped under \$4 for the first time in more than five months, good news for consumers who are struggling with high prices for many other essentials.

AAA said the national average for a gallon of regular was \$3.99 on Thursday, down from the mid-June record of \$5.02. However, that's still about 80 cents higher than the average a year ago.

Energy is a key factor in the cost of many goods and services, and falling prices for gas, airline tickets and clothes are giving consumers a bit of relief, although inflation is still close to a four-decade high.

Glen Smith, a for-hire driver, sized up the price \$3.85 a gallon while waiting between rides at a gas station in Kenner, Louisiana.

"I'm not tickled pink, but I'm happier it's less than what it was," Smith said. "There for a while, every two days I put \$50 of gas in my car. It's \$12 to run from the airport to drop off in the city \$12 a trip!"

Oil prices began rising in mid-2020 as economies recovered from the initial shock of the pandemic. They rose again when the U.S. and allies announced sanctions against Russian oil over the country's war against Ukraine.

Recently, however, oil prices have dropped on concern about slowing economic growth around the world. U.S. benchmark crude oil has recently dipped close to \$90 a barrel from over \$120 a barrel in June.

It is unclear whether gasoline prices got so high that consumers cut back on their driving. Some experts believe that is true, although they acknowledge that the evidence is largely anecdotal.

"I don't know that \$5 was the magic amount. I think it was the amount of increase in a short period of time," said Peter Schwarz,



A motorist fills up the tank on a sedan, on July 22, 2022, in Saratoga, Wyo.

Associated Press

an expert on energy pricing and an economics professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "People were starting to watch their driving."

Schwarz expects oil prices to remain relatively stable at least for the next month or so, particularly after OPEC and partners including Russia agreed to only a small oil production increase in September, which won't be enough to drive prices lower.

Christian vom Lehn, an economics professor at Brigham Young University, said the price of oil is the key factor for gasoline, but that seasonal trends could also keep prices from surging again.

"We are coming to the end of summer, and summer is a peak travel season, so demand is naturally going to fall," he said. "That is certainly contributing to the most recent decline" in gas prices.

The average gas price has dropped 58 straight days, but that streak will end soon, predicted Tom Kloza, head of energy analysis at the Oil Price Information Service. He said the industry will face challenges to meet gasoline demand for the rest of the year.

Kloza noted that it's still early in the hurricane season, which in the past has shut down some of the nation's biggest refineries that sit in hurricane-prone areas of the Gulf Coast; the Gulf of Mexico is speckled with oil-producing platforms. Also, he said, "refinery runs

will come down because of a lot of delayed maintenance that can't be delayed indefinitely."

Prices at the pump are likely to be a major issue heading into the mid-term elections in November.

Republicans blame President Joe Biden for the high gasoline prices, seizing on his decisions to cancel a permit for a major pipeline and suspend new oil and gas leases on federal lands. Biden said over the weekend that a family with two cars is saving \$100 a month because prices have dropped from their peak in mid-June.

"That's breathing room," he tweeted. "And we're not letting up any time soon."

Exxon said it has increased oil production. The CEO of Chevron said Biden was trying to vilify his industry.

Biden has also ordered the release of oil from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve this year. While not large enough to account for the drop in gasoline prices, the extra supply from reserves might have helped stem the rise in pump prices, according to analysts.

The nationwide average for gas hasn't been under \$4 since early March. Prices topped out at \$5.02 a gallon on June 14, according to AAA. They declined slowly the rest of June, then began dropping more rapidly. The shopping app GasBuddy reported that the national average dropped under \$4 on Wednesday. □

Scientists use tiny trackers, plane to follow moths on move

By MADDIE BURAKOFF

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Trillions of insects migrate across the globe each year, yet little is known about their journeys. So to look for clues, scientists in Germany took to the skies, placing tiny trackers on the backs of giant moths and following them by plane.

To the researchers' surprise, the moths seemed to have a strong sense of where they were going. Even when the winds changed, the insects stayed on a straight course, the scientists reported in a study published Thursday in the journal Science.

Their flight paths suggest these death's-head hawk moths have some complex navigation skills, the authors said, challenging earlier ideas that insects are just wanderers.

"For many, many years, it was thought that insect migration was mostly just dictated by winds, and they were blowing around," said lead author Myles Menz, now a zoologist at James Cook University in Australia.

It's been tough for scientists to get a close look at how insects travel, in part because of their small size, Menz said. The kinds of radio tags used to follow birds can be too heavy for smaller fliers.

But transmitters have gotten tinier. And it helps that the death's-head hawk moth is huge compared to other insects, with a wingspan up to 5 inches (127 millimeters).

The iconic species dark colored with yellow underwings and skull-like markings was able to fly well with the tiny tracker glued to its back, said Martin Wikelski, a study co-author and migration researcher at Germany's Max Planck Institute for Animal Behavior. The moths are thought to migrate thousands of miles between Europe and Africa in the autumn, flying by night.

For the study, researchers released tagged moths in Germany in the hopes they'd start flying on their



In this undated image provided by the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, after tagging, moths are released in Konstanz, Germany, and followed in a light aircraft for up to 80 kilometers into the Alps.

Associated Press

migration path toward the Alps. Wikelski, the study's pilot, took off in his plane, circling the area and waiting for any moths on the move. If he did pick up a signal from a tiny traveler, he would follow its radio blips for hours at a time.

"The little moth is guiding you," he said.

The researchers followed the flight paths of 14 moths, with their longest track around 56 miles (90 kilometers). Not only did the moths fly in straight lines, but they also seemed to work around wind conditions, Menz said, flying low to the ground when the winds were against them,

or rising up to catch a helpful tail wind.

Though the number of moths tracked was fairly small, getting any close-up look at insect migration is significant, said Ryan Norris, an insect and bird migration researcher at the University of Guelph in Canada, who was not involved

in the study.

"I was surprised at how far they could track them," Norris said. "And it certainly is surprising that individual moths stay on this straight trajectory." □

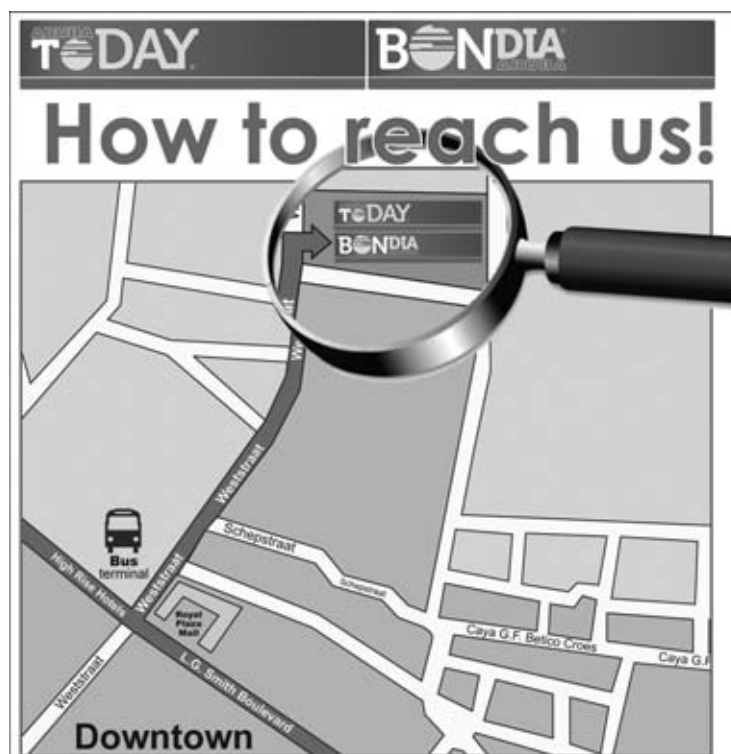
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Planet Drum unites global percussionists in common rhythm

By KRISTIN M. HALL

AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Grammy-winning group of the world's top percussionists has reunited after 15 years on a new record that aims to bring the world together in rhythm and dance.

Planet Drum's new record "In The Groove," out now, features drummers from very different backgrounds and musical cultures collaborating using technology to adapt their acoustic instruments into new sonic forms.

The collective is made up of the Grateful Dead's Mickey Hart, Indian tabla master Zakir Hussain, Nigerian talking drum virtuoso Sikiru Adepoju and conga great Giovanni Hidalgo from Puerto Rico.

"The first thing we all know about rhythms is that they are universal," said Hussain during an interview from Mumbai. "So that is what makes it possible for rhythm players all over the world to be able to interact and communicate and be able to work together to make music."

"Drums are a language unto themselves," said Hart. The friendship and collaboration between Hart and Hussain started decades



This undated image shows members of Planet Drum, from left, Giovanni Hidalgo, Zakir Hussain, Mickey Hart and Sikiru Adepoju.

ago when Hart was introduced to Hussain via his father, the legendary tabla player Ustad Alla Rakha, who accompanied Ravi Shankar. Planet Drum's self-titled first record in 1991 was the first album to win in the Grammy category for best world music, now called best global music album. Their second record earned them another Grammy in 2009.

Hidalgo called Planet Drum an "honor for me to travel the whole world with all of

them, because it is amazing when you analyze and you appreciate different cultures, different styles, from different countries Africa, India, United States, Puerto Rico. It's amazing and we respect all of them."

On this third album Hart and Hussain didn't want the virtuosity of the different players to overwhelm the average listener, instead focusing on creating rhythms that kept up an energy and pace that would get people moving.

Each of them are masters on an instrument, or in a particular style of drumming, such as Adepoju, who was born into a family of drummers who can play specific parts of language on an assortment of drums. The talking drum, which he plays, can imitate vocal sounds and language. Hussain said they wanted all those instruments and drumming patterns to come together "crystallized in a simple way where all the organic elements

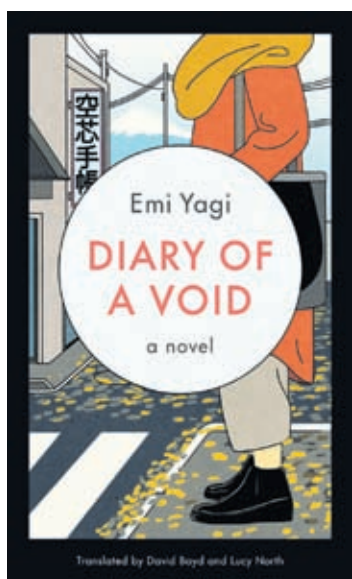
and intricacies of the instruments and the tradition that it represents are projected."

The music video for their song "King Clave," created with the organization Playing for Change, showcases the members of Planet Drum and over 50 drummers from all over the world. "Drums form an integral part of Indigenous Cultures around the world... used through the centuries, not only for festive occasions, but to communicate (sending messages from village to village... even)," said Adepoju in a statement provided to the AP. "They feature prominently in a broad spectrum of community events (spiritual ceremonies, births, funerals, carnivals, etc), hence their universal appeal."

But Hart, who has regularly been experimenting with electronic sounds in his solo work, wanted to showcase new ways to use the traditional acoustic instruments by manipulating their sounds electronically in the studio. Hart calls it "processed percussion," and he's able to morph the sound of Hussain's tabla, for instance, into the sound of bass guitar or strings or even the sound of water drops. □

Associated Press

Fake pregnancy transforms lonely salarywoman's life



This image released by Viking shows "Diary of a Void" by Emi Yagi.

Associated Press

By ANN LEVIN

Associated Press

Shibata-san, the only woman in her office group, is tired of cleaning up after the men. One day, when her section head asks her why dirty coffee cups are still lying around hours after a meeting, she improvises an astonishing lie. "I'm pregnant. The smell of coffee ... triggers my morning sickness."

So begins Emi Yagi's debut novel, "Diary of a Void," a bleak, acerbic, melancholy story of a woman who fakes a pregnancy to fight back against a workplace culture that expects women to tidy up and do all the menial chores around the office. The novel is structured as a series of diary entries that

roughly correspond to the 40 weeks of a pregnancy with occasional flashbacks to Shibata's childhood and one stunning flash-forward to her return to work after her maternity leave is over. In a note at the beginning, translators David Boyd and Lucy North explain that the title echoes that of a handbook issued by Japan's health ministry to expectant mothers to chronicle their pregnancy and child's subsequent development but with a twist.

The Japanese word for "mother and child" has been replaced by one that means "empty core" or "void."

It is an apt word to describe Shibata's life. She works for

a company that manufactures the hollow tubes used in everything from plastic wrap to sticky tape. It also evokes her intense loneliness and isolation as she struggles to get by as a single woman in the sprawling megalopolis of Tokyo.

Yagi, an editor at a Japanese women's magazine, writes with authority about contemporary Japanese society, particularly its deeply ingrained patterns of gender inequality. At Shibata's previous job, she was subjected to sexual harassment. Later, a woman she meets in "mommy aerobics" complains that her husband doesn't lift a finger to help with their newborn.

Her tone alternates between outrage and introspection as Shibata records the intrusive, obnoxious remarks people make about her pregnancy "Hey, is it cool if I touch your bump?" a co-worker says and recalls intimate memories of childhood, when she had family and friends to support her. Despite the trappings of 21st century life the bright lights of Ginza, a flashy pregnancy app and a subscription to Amazon Prime Shibata's life isn't easy.

Still, it comes as a surprise when the novel takes a surreal turn at the end, and the big lie assumes a life of its own. This is a debut you won't want to miss. □

Russell's No. 6 being retired across NBA, a 1st for league

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Bill Russell's No. 6 jersey is being retired across the NBA, a first for the league. The NBA and the National Basketball Players Association announced Thursday that the number worn by the 11-time champion, civil rights activist and person good enough to be enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both a player and a coach was being permanently retired by all 30 teams.

"Bill Russell's unparalleled success on the court and pioneering civil rights activism deserve to be honored in a unique and historic way," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "Permanently retiring his No. 6 across every NBA team ensures that Bill's transcendent career will always be recognized."

Players who currently wear No. 6 — including the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James — may continue doing so. But the number cannot be issued again, the league said.

All NBA players will wear a patch on the right shoulder of their jerseys this season, the league said, and every NBA court will display a clover-shaped logo with the No. 6 on the sideline near the scorer's table.



The 1969 game worn jersey of Boston Celtics' legend Bill Russell is displayed along with other memorabilia set to go up for auction, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, in Boston.

The Boston Celtics have "separate and unique recognition for him on their uniforms" planned, the NBA said. Russell died on July 31 at the age of 88. He was the most prolific winner in NBA history, an 11-time champion during a 13-year career — winning the last two of those titles as a player-coach — and the first Black coach in any of the major U.S. pro sports to win a championship.

He marched with Martin Luther King Jr., stood with Muhammad Ali and received

the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

And having his number retired leaguewide puts him in a very exclusive club.

Major League Baseball permanently retired No. 42 — in honor of Jackie Robinson, who broke the big league's color barrier — with the understanding that those who were wearing that number could continue to do so. Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees was the last in the majors to wear No. 42, doing so through his fi-

nal season in 2013. The NHL, upon Wayne Gretzky's retirement in 1999, said his No. 99 would be retired leaguewide in honor of that sport's all-time scoring leader. And now, Russell gets the same treatment. It also seems fitting that he and Robinson — both barrier-breakers — are linked again. Russell called Robinson a hero, once saying that "he showed me the way to be a man in professional sports."

Robinson, clearly, held Russell in high esteem as

well. Rachel Robinson, his widow, asked Russell to be a pallbearer at her husband's funeral in 1972.

"This is a momentous honor reserved for one of the greatest champions to ever play the game," NBPA Executive Director Tamika Tremaglio said. "Bill's actions on and off the court throughout the course of his life helped to shape generations of players for the better and for that, we are forever grateful. We are proud to continue the celebration of his life and legacy alongside the league."

There have been more than 250 players in NBA history to wear a No. 6 jersey, including 24 who did so in at least one game last season — most notably, James, who has alternated between 6 and 23 throughout his NBA career.

Nobody has worn No. 6 for the Celtics since Russell's final season, 1968-69.

Russell is one of 12 players currently enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame who wore No. 6 at at least some point in their careers. The others: Julius Erving, Patrick Ewing, Ben Wallace, Don Barksdale, Chuck Cooper, Larry Costello, Tom Gola, Cliff Hagan, Alex Hannum, Buddy Jeanette and Neil Johnston. □

Associated Press

Nick Kyrgios beats top-ranked Daniil Medvedev in Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — Nick Kyrgios beat top-ranked defending champion Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-2 on Wednesday in the National Bank Open.

Kyrgios, the Australian ranked 37th, won last week in Washington for his seventh ATP Tour title. Medvedev won last week in Los Cabos, Mexico.

"Today I had a very clean objective of how I was going to play, a lot of serve-and-volley, a lot of aggressive play from the back," Kyrgios said. "I executed better than he did, that's all it comes down to. He won the first set and I feel like I had opportunities there as

well, so hopefully I can just keep this rolling."

Kyrgios is 3-1 against Medvedev and has won 14 of 15 matches, with the loss coming to Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

"He played very well," Medvedev said. "The only thing that was a shame for me is that I played him so early because he is fit. He's among the top 10 or 15 players, so he will soon be a seeded player. It's a shame to have such a player as an opponent in the first (match)."

Earlier, American Tommy Paul beat second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz of Spain 6-7 (4), 7-6 (7), 6-3.

"I felt the pressure of being the second seed in this tournament and world No. 4," Alcaraz said. "It's the first time I've felt this pressure and I couldn't handle it." In the late match, Australia's Jack Draper beat third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 7-5, 7-6 (4). Also, fourth-seeded Casper Ruud of Norway beat Alex Molcan of Slovakia 7-6 (3), 6-3; sixth-seeded Montrealer Felix Auger-Aliassime edged Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 7-6 (6), 6-4; No. 7 Jannik Sinner of Italy topped Adrian Mannarino of France 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; and No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz of Poland beat Emil Ruusuvuori



Nick Kyrgios of Australia serves to Daniil Medvedev during second round play at the National Bank Open tennis tournament Wednesday Aug. 10, 2022 in Montreal.

Associated Press

of Finland 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2. No. 9 Cameron Norrie of Britain beat Botic van de Zandschulp of the Neth-

erlands 6-1, 6-2, and 10th-seeded Taylor Fritz beat fellow American Frances Tiafoe 5-7, 6-1, 6-4. □

Broncos sport NFL's richest, most diverse ownership group

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

**AP Pro Football Writer
ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) —**

The Denver Broncos now sport the wealthiest owner in the NFL and the league's most diverse ownership group.

Four of the six members of the Walton-Penner ownership group, which was welcomed into the NFL this week, are either women or minorities.

Walmart heir Rob Walton, the oldest child of Walmart co-founder Sam Walton, bought the Broncos along with his daughter, Carrie Walton Penner, and her husband, for \$4.65 billion, a global record for a professional sports franchise.

Walton said Wednesday that his son-in-law, Greg Penner, will serve as CEO of the team. Penner said he'll soon hire a team president. Those roles had been held by Joe Ellis, who is staying on this year as an advisor. Penner said he'll be the point person "but this is an incredible group. We're going to draw on all of them." The ownership group includes limited partners Melody Hobson, Condoleezza Rice and Lewis Hamilton. Hobson is CEO of Starbucks, Rice is a former U.S. Secretary of State and Hamilton is the winningest Formula One driver in history.

Walton thanked Ellis for his 27 years of service and



Gregory Penner, Condoleezza Rice, Rob Walton, Melody Hobson and Carrie Walton Penner, from left, of the ownership group that purchased the Denver Broncos, assemble for a group photograph during a news conference at the NFL football team's headquarters Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, in Centennial, Colo.

paid tribute to the late Pat Bowlen. He purchased the team in 1984 for \$78 million and died in 2019, a month shy of his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"Pat Bowlen built a great legacy and a record of winning and championships," Walton said. "We plan to do everything we can to build on the championship tradition of this great organization. ... Simply put, it's an honor to steward this historic franchise. Our No. 1 priority is putting a winning team on the field to win Super Bowls."

Before Walton's group pur-

chased the Broncos, the NFL's wealthiest owner was Carolina's David Tepper, whom Forbes estimates has a total net worth of \$16.7 billion. Walton's estimated net worth is \$60 billion.

"We wanted to add people that brought different perspectives and experiences and certainly we have that here," Penner said. "Lewis, being the G.O.A.T. (greatest of all time) Formula One driver, Dr. Rice with all of her experience in politics and academics and world affairs, Melody, as a you know, an incredible businesswoman and her track

record there.

"We're big believers in bringing together different perspectives and experiences and backgrounds and that we think will make us more successful."

All but Hamilton, who is still in racing season, gathered at team headquarters a day after NFL owners unanimously approved the sale Tuesday in Minnesota. The Broncos new ownership group met with staff and players before practice, and star safety Justin Simmons said he was proud to see so many faces of color. "To see some diversity and

to see strong, Black women in the ownership group, I mean, what an inspiration for so many people," said Simmons, who is biracial. "There's little girls out here whose dads play on the team and they can look up at the ownership of the Broncos and they can see someone that looks just like them. I think that's really great."

"But I think the biggest thing on top of that is they didn't just do that to do that," Simmons said. "I mean, these are really powerful, qualified individuals that deserve this, earned this, worked for this. And that to me is inspiring."

Hobson called it "such an honor and a privilege to be an owner of this remarkable organization. ... The moment is humbling and it's historical, and yet, I feel at home."

Hobson said when she was first approached about joining the ownership group, she encouraged Walton to also bring aboard her friend Hamilton.

"Lewis is my chosen little brother," she said. "As soon as this opportunity came up, I said, 'You have to have Lewis.' I met Lewis in his rookie season as an F1 driver. We bonded over time. As many of you know, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth and I call him, 'Sir Little Brother.'"



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady puts on his jersey during an NFL football training camp practice with the Miami Dolphins Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

By **FRED GOODALL**

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady was excused from training camp on Thursday, the first day of what Tampa

Bay Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles said was a planned, 11-day absence from the team to address "personal things."

Bowles said the 45-year-old

Tom Brady taking 11-day break from Bucs for personal reasons

quarterback's break from practice was arranged before camp began, adding that Brady won't return until after the Bucs' preseason game at Tennessee on Aug. 20.

"Tom has been excused today. ... He's going to deal with some personal things. This is something we talked about before training camp started. We allotted this time because he wanted to get in and get chemistry with the guys with two weeks of training camp, knowing he wasn't going to play the first two (preseason) games," Bowles

said after the Bucs concluded two days of controlled scrimmages against the Miami Dolphins.

Tampa Bay opens the preseason Saturday night against the Dolphins. The Bucs will also travel to Nashville for two days of practice ahead of their game against the Titans.

Backup quarterbacks Blaine Gabbert, Kyle Trask and Ryan Griffin will share snaps during Brady's absence. "He didn't want to take away reps from Blaine, Kyle, as well as Griff, as far as going into these next two games. That's

something he can handle," Bowles said. "We trust him. We talked about it. It was scheduled way before training camp."

Brady, who retired in February only to change his mind six weeks later, was also excused from practice for personal reasons last Friday — two days after getting a scheduled day off for his 45th birthday.

Bowles said his confidence level is "pretty high" that Brady will be in the lineup for next month's regular-season opener at Dallas.

"Per our conversation, I'm not worried," Bowles said.